

BRIAN LOWNEY
Deputy County Attorney
KIRSTEN H. PABST
Missoula County Attorney
Missoula County Courthouse
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406) 258-4737
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF MISSOULA COUNTY,
STATE OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA, Plaintiff, -vs- LEANNAH GARDIPE, Defendant.	Dept. Cause No. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
---	--

STATE OF MONTANA)
 : ss
County of Missoula)

BRIAN LOWNEY, Deputy County Attorney, Montana, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

I have read the law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of LEANNAH GARDIPE for allegedly committing the offenses of:

COUNT I: DELIBERATE HOMICIDE, a felony, in violation of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-102(1)(a);

COUNT II: DELIBERATE HOMICIDE, a felony, in violation of Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-102(1)(a).

I believe that the facts as set forth in the law enforcement reports, if true, constitute sufficient probable cause to justify the filing of the charges.

Those facts are as follows:

On November 19, 2021, at approximately 8:06am, Missoula County Sheriff's Office deputies were called to a report of a homicide in a residence on Patty Ann Drive, Missoula County, MT. The initial 911 caller, H.O., called to report that her daughter, the Defendant, had called H.O. and reported that she had "saved her babies". H.O. believed the Defendant was referring to the Defendant's two children, Jane Doe (age 3) and John Doe (age 5). H.O. asked the Defendant if that meant she had killed Jane and John Doe and the Defendant began crying.

A few moments later, the Defendant called 911 herself. On that call, the Defendant said that she "want[ed] to report a murder" and that H.O. "should be calling too, I just told her". The Defendant told 911 that the event happened that morning and that it occurred "with a knife" on the Defendant's bed. The Defendant asked to dispatch to send medical as she was hearing noises still from one of her children. The Defendant said that the knife was a "steak knife" and that it was in the bedroom. The Defendant told dispatch

that “I was supposed to die today”. The Defendant said she was waiting for law enforcement to arrive but that she did not see them yet.

Deputies arrived and saw the Defendant exit the front door of the residence. Deputies told the Defendant to exit the residence, but the Defendant stepped back inside and locked the door. The Defendant was still on the phone with 911 at the time. The dispatcher told the Defendant that law enforcement was there to help her and the Defendant responded “no they are not, not for what I did.” Deputies then went to the back of the residence and encountered the Defendant there. Deputies secured the Defendant, then entered the home looking for Jane and John Doe.

Deputies located Jane and John Doe in the bedroom closest to the front door of the house. Both Jane and John Doe were lying on their backs and were tucked into the bedsheets. Neither was moving and there were no obvious signs of life. Deputies saw significant lacerations on their throats, as if they had been cut with a knife. Later examination of the children’s bodies revealed defensive wounds to their hands and fingers, as well as other knife injuries. The children were later pronounced dead after medical examination.

Law enforcement executed warrants for the residence. Inside, they located a note at the threshold of the bedroom the children were found in that read “[i]t was the only way that we all wouldn’t burn, now I’m the only one of

us that will.” Deputies also located a bloody serrated steak knife underneath the bed and a pool of blood on the floor in Jane Doe’s bedroom. No other party was located in the residence.

DATED this 20th day of November, 2021.

By 
BRIAN LOWNEY
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the State of Montana, County of Missoula.

Electronically Signed By:
Hon. Judge Landee Holloway
On Behalf Of:
Hon. Judge Alex Beal
Mon, Nov 22 2021 08:41 AM